

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

November 15, 2001
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, Vice President
Mr. Michael David Warren, Jr., Secretary
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mr. John C. Austin
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer
Mrs. Sharon Wise

Absent: Governor John Engler, ex officio

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. AGENDA MATERIALS

- A. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of October 18, 2001

III. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Memorandum dated November 15, 2001, from Mr. Alexander Davlantes, Administrative Officer, to the Board regarding Update on Activities at Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Camp T
- B. Information dated November 4, 2001, regarding the Michigan Association of Public School Academies Press Release titled, "2001 MEAPS: Charter Public Schools Gain Ground on Traditional Schools"
- C. Memorandum dated November 15, 2001, from Mr. Watkins to the Board regarding Information on Assistance to High Needs Schools
- D. Information on Grant Criteria for Youth Media Campaign, School Health

Programs to Prevent Serious Health Problems and Improve Education

- E. Information on Grant Criteria for William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program (Even Start)
- F. Information on Grant Criteria for Technical Assistance on Reading Getting Everyone on Target/Putting Literacy on Us (TARGET PLUS)

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Report of the Superintendent - Report on Approval of New or Revised Teacher Education Programs - added to agenda
- B. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 State-Funded Michigan School Readiness Competitive Grant Program - Amendment - added to agenda
- C. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidate Subsidy Grants - added to agenda

Mrs. Straus requested that the following item be removed from the agenda:

- D. Adoption of Revised State Board of Education By-Laws

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Straus said she was pleased to have so many children present at the Board meeting, and introduced Ms. Geri Rinschler, President, Birmingham Public Schools Board of Education; Ms. Shelli Weisberg, Member, Birmingham Public Schools Board of Education; and Dr. Sylvia Whitmer, Director of Instruction, Birmingham Public Schools.

VI. PRESENTATION BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TASK FORCE ON EMBRACING THE INFORMATION AGE

Mr. Warren said the Embracing the Information Age Task Force was comprised of a team of very committed and talented individuals who spent a lot of time and energy on this project. As an example of how the Internet could be utilized in everyday life, Mr. Warren shared a story of how he purchased his last car from General Motors online.

Mrs. Dorothy Beardmore, former President of the State Board of Education member,

and member of the Embracing the Information Age Task Force, provided introductory comments to the State Board of Education. She said the Information Age frees teachers to teach and students to learn regardless of time, place, ethnicity, or social or economic status. She said the Information Age is technology rich, provides a learner focused environment, and is essential to prepare all students for the 21st Century life. She said to succeed in today's changing world, students need different learning skills and knowledge that were unknown just a few years ago. She said this is the beginning of a very exciting time for all education and everyone in the state, nation, and the world.

The detailed and interactive Task Force presentation included the following activities: (1) two film clips; (2) a video conference with Dr. Kenneth Burnley, Chief Executive Officer, Detroit Public Schools; and Dr. John Hoeffler, Superintendent, Birmingham Public Schools, (3) a PowerPoint presentation; (4) an online and in person question and answer session with students from Alex Dow Elementary, Detroit Public Schools; and Covington Elementary School, Birmingham Public Schools; and (5) a web quest exercise taught to Board members on laptop computers by the students.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to the following individuals:

Ms. Sylvia Green, Principal, Dow Elementary
Ms. Carolyn Lockhart, Teacher, Dow Elementary
Mr. Michael Gorski, Birmingham
Ms. Dorothy Davenport, Dow Elementary
Mr. Calvin Clark, Apple Corporation
Mr. Roy McCloud, Birmingham

Mr. Jim Bosco, Western Michigan University and member of the Task Force, said he welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Embracing the Information Task Force because it is evident that technology in classrooms enhances student learning, however, many schools in Michigan do not have the capability to integrate technology into their curriculum. He said there are countless talented, dedicated, and energetic educators in Michigan, yet the state is somewhere in the middle in terms of utilization of technology in the classroom. He said there is a great need to do a much better job at all levels in terms of access, utilization, and training of teachers to raise Michigan to the top of that list. He said what is happening at Dow Elementary and Covington Elementary need not be the exception.

Ms. Christine Scogland, Teacher, Oakman Elementary School, Detroit Public Schools, said the Task Force presentation provided an opportunity for the Board to experience how motivating technology can be for students, however, in many classrooms throughout the state, teachers must survive on power cords, surge protectors, and insufficient technical support. She said they must decide everyday whether to plug in the overhead projector, or the computer. She said the Teacher Technology Initiative has been a great asset, and has assisted many teachers throughout the state in moving beyond the classroom to gain the best practices in

technology from other schools. She said Michigan is the fourth largest technology employer in the United States, and it should be the motivation of educators to meet the future needs of this state and give students the best opportunity possible to succeed.

Ms. Joelle Demand, Policy Advisor, House Republican Policy Office, said Speaker Rick Johnson has proposed legislation a couple of days before regarding classroom access to technology. She said he plans to dedicate staff and resources over the next three years to research development of comprehensive technology for schools. She said his goal is to establish a portable technology for students and schools, and has even visited a school in Virginia where each student received a computer without breaking budget. On behalf of the Speaker, Ms. Demand commended the Board for establishing the Task Forces, and said he looks forward to working with the Board in the future.

Mr. Warren said the Embracing the Information Age Task Force makes the following recommendations:

- Educator Preparation and Development - All educators and administrators will be prepared to use Information Age tools and learning techniques and processes.
- Standards and Assessment - State and local academic standards, benchmarks, and assessments will reflect the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the Information Age.
- Transcending the Four Walls - Schools will transcend their four walls and districts - distance learning and other learning resources will be integrated into the learning community.
- Virtual Districts - Chronically underperforming schools and districts will form collaborative partnerships creating virtual districts by which all partners share best practices and resources.

Mr. Warren said he hopes the Board will consider the above recommendations at its December 13, 2001, meeting. He said approving the recommendations will result in a replacement of what is commonly referred to as the Seventh Standard for teacher preparation which was based on a 1998 model of the International Society for Technology and Education. He said the Task Force has taken the national model and integrated customization of learning, higher order thinking skills, self direction, and collaboration. He said it is hoped that schools will transcend their four walls and district boundaries through distance learning and other resources integrated into the learning community.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Mrs. Straus thanked the Embracing the Information Age Task Force for their presentation, and explained that this was the first of the five task forces to provide information and recommendations to the Board.

She said there are some parallels between the Embracing the Information Age Task Force, the Ensuring Excellent Educators Task Force, the Elevating Educational Leadership Task Force, and the Integrating Schools and Communities Task Force. She said Mr. Warren has set a very high standard for the other Task Forces.

Mrs. Wise moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education receive the report by the Embracing the Information Age Task Force, and continue discussion regarding the recommendations at its December 13, 2001, meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The “Embracing the Information Age Task Force Report” is attached as Exhibit A, and the comments of Dr. Burnley and Dr. Hoeffler are attached as Exhibit B.

VI. RECESS

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:45 p.m. and reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Mary Wood, 27533 Santa Ana, Warren, Michigan 48093. Ms. Wood offered comments regarding charter school oversight.

In response to Ms. Wood, Mrs. Straus said the Legislature has established a Commission on Charter Schools, and Mr. Watkins is a member of the group. She also said Mr. Austin has been assigned the task of soliciting information from Board members which will result in recommendations to the Commission from the Board.

VIII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference

Ms. Kate McAuliffe, Director, Office of Government Services, said the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth has served as the voice for the education of children and youth who are without permanent homes.

Ms. McAuliffe introduced the following individuals: (1) Ms. Karen Burn, Carrollton Public Schools; (2) Ms. Jane Scarlett, Wayne Metro on contract with Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency; (3) Ms. Cecilia Santa Ana, Supervisor, Michigan Department of Education; and (2) Ms. Cynthia Theusch, Secretary, Michigan Department of Education.

Ms. McAuliffe presented Mrs. Straus with a plaque of appreciation which was awarded to special participants at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference.

B. Office of State Aid and School Finance

Mr. Watkins said a great amount of money is distributed by the Office of State Aid and School Finance which recently received a no exceptions audit by the Auditor General's Office. He said there are many extraordinary people working in state government and the Department of Education, and he believes that it is critical to acknowledge their great work. He commended Ms. Mills and her staff for a job exceptionally well done.

Ms. Elaine Madigan Mills, Director, Office of State Aid and School Finance, said her staff takes their work very seriously, and takes pride in a job well done. She said she wanted to specifically mention that Mr. Dan Hanrahan, State Aid Supervisor, was the focus of this audit, and is responsible for the accounting for the school aid fund. She said he does a remarkable job.

A Certificate of appreciation was presented to the Office of State Aid and School Finance.

IX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Conference for the Education of Homeless Children

Mrs. Straus said she had the honor of attending a Conference for the Education of Homeless Children and was very impressed by the dedication and commitment of the people who work with these children.

B. Camp Tuhsmeheeta Artwork

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Mrs. Straus thanked Ms. Kathy Brown, Director, Michigan School for the Blind, for the display of artwork set up outside the Board Room. Mrs. Straus said the artwork was completed by sight impaired and blind students at Camp Tuhsmeheeta last summer.

Ms. Brown said the purpose for the artwork display was to demonstrate the abilities of visually impaired students. She said these children constantly battle low expectations, but they are capable of great work if given the chance.

C. National Blue Ribbon Schools

Mrs. Straus said two weeks ago she had the privilege of being in Washington, D.C. for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Award ceremony. She said out of approximately 260 schools across the United States which received the award, fifteen of them were from Michigan. She said of the fifteen recognized from Michigan, three received a special award, two for outstanding programs in special education out of six for the entire country, and Davison Elementary, Detroit Public Schools was the only school to receive an award for outstanding technology programs.

D. Healthy Workplace Award

Mrs. Straus said the Department is to be commended for receiving the Gold Medal in the Healthy Workplace Award. She said this serves as an example for school districts throughout the state.

X. MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of October 18, 2001

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education approve the minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2001.

The motion carried unanimously.

XI. PRESENTATION REGARDING LION'S CLUB "QUEST" PROGRAM

Dr. Moyer said the Lion's Club International is the largest service club in the United States. He said approximately fifteen years ago, the Lion's Club voted to subscribe to the Quest program which is designed to encourage character education, civility, conflict resolution skills, self esteem, and citizenship. He said many school districts have chosen to implement this program.

Dr. Moyer introduced the following individuals:

- Mr. Dick Tallman, Youth Outreach Chair
- Ms. Mary Zaums, Principal, Bedford Middle School
- Ms. Barb Morgan, District Governor, Lion's Club International
- Mr. Tony Dowell, District Committee Chairman for Youth Outreach
- Mr. Greg Long, Lion's Club Quest Program
- Mr. Brian Sheehan, District Youth Outreach Chair
- Ms. Lisa Jenkins, Teacher, Detroit Public Schools, and Secretary, Lion's Club International

Mr. Tallman said the Quest program has allowed the Lion's Club to refocus its services on youth issues, and he requested that the Board assist them in spreading the word about this program.

Ms. Zaums said the Quest programs have made a great difference for many of her students by helping them to recognize problematic behavior that could potentially become volatile. She said the heart of the Quest program is promoting the values of effective citizenship, and the core of Democratic values.

Mrs. Straus said the Board supports service learning, and she feels the Lion's Club should contact the Office of Drug Control Policy which administers many programs related to the Quest program.

On behalf of the State Board of Education, Mr. Watkins thanked Dr. Moyer for bringing the Lion's Club to the Board meeting.

No action was taken on this item.

XII. DIALOGUE WITH MIKE BOULUS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Mr. Mike Boulus, Deputy Director, Michigan Department of Treasury, and Dr. Diane Smolen, Director, Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), and Merit Award Office, provided information and responded to questions from the Board regarding the MEAP and Merit Award programs.

Mr. Boulus said the integrity of the MEAP is the main focus of staff, and their goal is to be fair, thorough, and consistent on the tests and results. He said the MEAP tests are aligned to the content standards which are anchored to the Michigan Curriculum Frameworks. He said he believes that by focusing on the content standards schools will do well on the MEAP. He said he likes the idea of adequate yearly progress, and that schools should be held accountable for academic gains in necessary skills. He said he does not believe socioeconomic status is an excuse, and that if the material is taught, most likely it will be learned.

Mr. Boulus provided information regarding the following during his presentation: (1) changes in the MEAP Social Studies test; (2) the budget for the MEAP and Merit Award Offices; and (3) the alleged elimination of the Social Studies MEAP test.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) the model core curriculum versus the curriculum frameworks and how they have affected the MEAP tests; (2) open ended versus multiple choice questions on the MEAP tests; (3) turn around time for test results; (4) irregularities in scores and the Testing Practices Document; (5) testing for collaboration skills; (6) proposed National Test Program and how it will correlate with the MEAP; (7) yearly testing; (8) time line for the development of new tests; and (9) team based learning.

Dr. William Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer, said he and Department staff are working closely with the Department of Treasury as the accountability process is developed. He said Department staff are also working closely with staff in the Merit Award program in creating some online examples for teachers in science and social

studies. He said it could be very productive to engage teachers at that level.

Mr. Watkins said he appreciates Dr. Bushaw's efforts, and that he is collaborating with the Department of Treasury because it is important to keep service to the children of Michigan in mind. He said one of the reasons he decided to revise the accreditation system was that it was based solely on the MEAP tests, and he feels it is important that it capture everything children should know and be able to do.

No action was taken on this item.

XIII. REPORT ON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS
REGARDING CHARTER SCHOOLS

Mr. Austin said he has spoken with each of the Board members and has received written comments in differing degrees of intensity. He said he hopes the Board will agree upon two types of guidance to present to the Charter School Commission, first being a list of questions the Board would like the Commission to investigate, and second a statement from the Board on how charter schools fit into the Michigan public school landscape, and guidance on how the Board would like current and future charter schools to be developed.

Mr. Austin said Board members agreed and disagreed on certain points. He said agreements include: (1) public school choices and enhanced public school choices can take many forms; (2) choices are a good healthy thing for many parents and students, and charters are part of those options; (3) charters are here to stay and are part of the education landscape; (4) quality of charter schools and performance on academic achievement is more important than quantity of charters; and (5) charters and all public schools should be treated equally in terms of conformance to high standards, non discrimination enrollment, transparency, and accountability. He said there was reluctant acknowledgment that competition has created some positive dynamics, and that they can be innovative.

Mr. Austin said areas of disagreement include: (1) the degree in which people want to aggressively develop charters as alternatives to failing schools relative to putting effort into turning around failing schools; (2) the degree in which for-profit and management companies are viewed to be problematic and the profiteering and other aspects are viewed as difficult; (3) some Board members felt that charter schools should be held accountable as traditional public schools, while others suggest that charter schools are a unique creature and certain aspects of their governance and structure demands extra scrutiny and accountability processes; and (4) there was no consensus whether chartering across Michigan and certain regions is better or worse than chartering in a local community where institutions have their mission.

Mrs. Weiser pointed out the article in the Board member's Informational Folders titled, "2001 MEAPS: Charter Public Schools Gain Ground on Traditional Schools." She said this is just an introductory article by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, and that further information is available on their web site.

The following individuals offered comments regarding this issue:

- A. Mr. Daniel Quisenberry, President, Michigan Association of Public School Academies, 215 South Washington Square, Suite 210, Lansing, Michigan 48933
- B. Mr. James Sandy, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, 600 South Walnut, Lansing, Michigan 48933
- C. Ms. Linda Myers, Michigan Education Association, P.O. Box 2573, East Lansing, Michigan 48826-2573

Mr. Watkins said he looks forward to serving on the Charter School Commission, and believes that charter schools should be held to the same standards as traditional public schools. He said he believes that all schools, whether they are charter or traditional public schools, have an obligation to provide children with the education they need and deserve.

No action was taken on this item.

XIV. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2002

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, said a poll of Board members did not reveal a clear preference for a specific day of the month for Board meetings in 2002. She suggested that the schedule remain on the third Thursday of the month with the exception of January which would be on the fourth Thursday because there were actually five Thursday's in that month.

Mrs. Weiser said she would be back in the United States on January 7 - 8, 2002, and, therefore, suggested that the Board meeting be moved to the second week of January.

A suggestion was made to hold the Board meetings on the second Thursday of each month with the exception of October which would cause a conflict with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference.

Mr. Watkins said there has been discussion regarding holding a Board and staff retreat, and he suggested that it be held in conjunction with the January 2002, Board meeting. He said he envisions a meeting which would start at approximately 12:00 p.m. on one day and end at 12:00 p.m. the next day.

After much discussion, there was consensus to tentatively schedule the Board meetings for the second Thursday of each month with the exception of October, which will be scheduled for the third Thursday and to schedule a Board retreat to be held in conjunction with the January 2002 Board meeting.

XV. REPORT ON CONSENT AGENDA

- F. Approval of Evaluation Document for Superintendent of Public Instruction
- G. Approval of State Board of Education By-Laws (removed from the agenda)
- H. Approval of Issues from the 2001 Annual Business Meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Education
- I. Adoption of Resolution Honoring James F. Linsell, Michigan's Teacher of the Year
- J. Adoption of Resolution Declaring Local School Board Member Recognition Month, January 2002

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, said even though a report for the "Approval of Issues from the 2001 Annual Business Meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Education," had been provided to the Board, no recommendation for approval was provided.

Mrs. McGuire, NASBE Delegate, said the Board is asked to approve five separate items as part of the item titled, "Approval of Issues from the 2001 Annual Business Meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Education" some of which are recommendations, and some are bylaws revisions. She said those items are as follows:

- Voting Item #1 - Nationally Mandated Assessments and Accountability - This new Policy Position is intended to replace a previous statement that responded to proposals for voluntary national assessments in reading and math. This was developed by the NASBE Resolutions Committee with input from the Governmental Affairs Committee.

Mrs. McGuire said her concerns were of funding and of test development, however, NASBE has addressed those issues in the document provided to the Board. She said she recommends approval of this item.

- Voting Item #2 - Revised Version of the "Public Policy Positions of the National Association of State Boards of Education" - In 2001, the Resolutions Committee continued the work of the previous year's committee in revising the Resolutions document by making NASBE's Public Policy Positions more concise, clear, up-to-date, and user-friendly. Many instances of repetition were also eliminated. The Committee worked hard to ensure that the rewriting did not change the substance or meaning of any Resolutions, but only clarified and updated the language.

Mrs. McGuire said she recommends approval of this item.

- Voting Item #3 - Qualifications for Candidates for the Board of Directors -

Because the *state* and not the *individual* is a member of NASBE, the Bylaws Committee of NASBE is recommending that each candidate for the Board of Directors submit a letter of support from his or her state board of education to be eligible to run for the board. The New Member Representative would be the exception to this rule.

Mrs. McGuire said she recommends approval of this item.

- Voting Item #4 - Selection of Nominations Committee - The proposed changes would allow the President-elect to select the Nominations Committee. The committee would include one member from each designated Area of the Association.

Mrs. McGuire said she recommends approval of this item.

- Voting Item #5 - Finance Committee Name Change - In light of the Finance Committee's responsibility for receiving and reviewing the Association's independent audit, the Board is recommending that the name of the committee be changed to the "Finance and Audit Committee."

Mrs. McGuire said she recommends approval of this item.

There was Board consensus to approve all the issues as recommended by Mrs. McGuire. The members of the Board do not support NASBE's decision to eliminate individual subscriptions to Education Week.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) national testing and if Michigan's current assessment program with augmentation would be sufficient to satisfy that requirement; and (2) the Supreme Court case on school vouchers in the Cleveland, Ohio School District.

Mrs. Straus suggested the Board recommend to NASBE that it file an Amicus Brief on the Cleveland school voucher case being considered by the Supreme Court. In response, Mr. Watkins suggested that the Board allow staff time to investigate the issue and determine what course of action, if any, NASBE has decided to take, and if NASBE would welcome input from the Board.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- F. approve the evaluation document for the Superintendent of Public Instruction, as attached to the President's memorandum dated October 31, 2001;**
- G. (this item was been removed from the agenda);**
- H. approve the five voting items requested by the National Association of State Board's of Education (NASBE), as recommended by**

Mrs. McGuire, NASBE Delegate;

- I. adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated October 31, 2001, honoring James F. Linsell; and**
- J. adopt the resolution attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 9, 2001, declaring January 2002, as Local School Board Member Recognition Month.**

Ayes: Austin, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Warren, Weiser, Wise

Mr. Austin abstained from voting on Item H entitled "Approval of Issues from the 2001 Annual Business Meeting of the National Association of State Boards of Education."

The motion carried.

XVI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- K. Human Resources Report**
- L. Report on Approval of Request of Board of Trustees of Lake Michigan College**
- O. Report on Approval of New or Revised Teacher Education Programs**
- M. 2001-2002 Michigan School Readiness Program Evaluation Grant**
- N. 2000-2001 School Health Programs to Prevent Serious Health Problems and Improve Educational Outcomes**
- P. 2001-2002 State-Funded Michigan School Readiness Competitive Grant Program - Amendment**
- Q. 2000-2001 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Candidate Subsidy Grants**

Mr. Watkins provided an oral report on the following:

- A. Leadership Team**

Mr. Watkins said the leadership team for the Department consists of the following six people: (1) Dr. William Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer; (2) Mrs. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent for Administrative Services; (3) Ms. Pam Wong, Chief of Staff; (4) Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education; (5) Ms. Kate

McAuliffe, Assistant Superintendent; and (6) Mr. Donald Weatherspoon, Assistant Superintendent. He said other staff are added as needed depending on issues to be addressed.

B. Strategic Retreat

Mr. Watkins said one of the ideas mentioned in the *30 Ideas in 30 Days* publication, and as mentioned earlier in the meeting, was a Board retreat with Board members and the Leadership Team, to discuss pertinent issues and the structure of the Department. He said he hopes to elicit assistance from Plante and Moran either on a pro bono basis or at a reduced rate to assist in how the Department is aligned and using resources available to ensure that staff time and energy are focused on helping teachers teach and students learn.

C. Special Education

Mr. Watkins said three Listen and Learn sessions have been held with approximately 1,000 people attending thus far. He said the meetings consist of a five minute introductory opening, after which people can talk for as long as they like. He said every person who wishes to may offer their comments, and the meetings last until they are finished. He invited Board members to attend future sessions.

D. Accountability

Mr. Watkins said Dr. William Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer, and Mr. Paul Bielawski, Special Assistant for Under Performing Schools, are in the process of developing the new accountability/accreditation system, and plan to report to the Board at its December 13, 2001, meeting. He said public hearings will be held in January 2002, as well as another report to the Board, K-12 Appropriations Committee and both the House and Senate Education Committees in February.

E. Budget

Mr. Watkins said the Governor and Legislature have finalized the 2002 budget and have issued a 10% cut for the Department of Education. He said other agencies received larger cuts, and he is concerned that services offered by the Family Independence Agency and the Department of Community Health may affect children's lives thus impacting their learning ability.

F. Financial Requirements of Public Education

Mr. Watkins said the Board has charged the Superintendent of Public Instruction to initiate a thorough and in-depth review and study of the financial requirements of public education and issues related to such requirements on behalf of the State Board of Education. He said this review and study shall

include both estimates of the funds needed to appropriately fund public education and any related policy recommendations. He said a meeting has been set up with the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory (NCREL), the Citizens Research Council, and some research universities in an effort to accomplish that goal. He said he hopes to be able to offer a report in early 2002.

G. National Conference for Community and Justice

Mr. Watkins said he recently had the honor of attending an event hosted by the National Conference for Community and Justice formerly known as the National Council of Christians and Jews where Mrs. Straus was recognized and honored to receive the Bill Beckham Award for Community Service to recognize outstanding contributions to the betterment of the greater Detroit Community. He said Mrs. Straus' acceptance speech was outstanding and he would like to receive a copy to share with the Board.

XVII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Fourth Summit on Schools - Mrs. Sharon Wise

Mrs. Wise said Governor Engler was one of fifteen governors who attended the Fourth Summit on Schools which she believes is a statement and testament to his commitment to education.

B. Positive Behavior Support - Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire

Mrs. McGuire said she recently attended a presentation at Macomb Intermediate School District (ISD) regarding Positive Behavior Support which she found very interesting. She said Macomb ISD staff have had great success with this program with both their mainstreamed and special education students. She said the basic procedure entails noting what, why, how, and when certain behavior occurs and dealing with it as soon as possible. She suggested that Macomb ISD staff make a presentation to the Board at a future meeting.

XVIII. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Watkins suggested that the Board consider inviting Dr. William H. Schmidt, College of Education, Michigan State University, back to a Board meeting.

Mr. Watkins said the President, Vice President, secretary, and staff will meet in the next couple of weeks to develop the agenda for the next meeting.

XIX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

A. December 13, 2001

XX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael David Warren, Jr.
Secretary